



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Lionel Hicks

**WARREN RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO OPERATING
SOPHISTICATED MARIJUANA GROWING OPERATION**

A 37-year-old Warren resident pleaded guilty today to operating a large-scale marijuana growing operation involving over 1,000 marijuana plants at a warehouse in southwest Detroit, Michigan, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Robert Corso, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Pleading guilty before U.S. District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff was Lionel Hicks.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that Lionel Hicks participated in the installation and operation of a marijuana growing operation at a warehouse located at 3270 Goldner Street, Detroit, Michigan. The warehouse contained a hydroponic marijuana growing operation consisting of over 1000 marijuana plants, over 100 metal halide lights, pumps and professionally installed plumbing.

Under the terms of his plea agreement, Hicks faces sentencing guidelines of 37 to 46 months in prison. The date for sentencing will be set by the Court.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, “While many of our efforts focus on drug interdiction, this prosecution addresses the problem of drugs manufactured in our own back yard. Large-scale marijuana growing operations yield large quantities of high-potency marijuana that have a devastating impact on our communities. DEA, the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department, and the Detroit Police Department deserve a lot of credit for making this case.”

The investigation of this case was conducted by agents of the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department and the Detroit Police Department.